Pulses Development Programme are being implemented. Besides, programme for increasing the use of fertilizer in low consumption areas and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the production of crops.

Organic Fertilisers used in Agriculture

5654. SHRI CHAMANBHAI MEH-TA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of organic fertilizers in total quantum of fertilizers used in agriculture;

(b) whether it is possible to augment the supply of organic manure;

(c) if so, how; and

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) As per reports received from the State Governments, it is estimated that about 273 million tonnes of Rural Compost and 6.5 million tonnes of Urban compost is used in the country. The consumption of chemical fertilisers during 1994-95 is estimated about 13.83 million tonnes. Because of different origin/nature of organic and chemical fertilisers, it is difficult exactly to quantify the percentage use.

(b) to (d) To augment the production and use of organic manure, green manure seed and bio-fertilisers, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing the following scheme:—

i) Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilisers;

ii) National Project on Development of* Fertiliser Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas.

iii) National Project on Development and Use of Bio-Fertilisers.

Water Scarcity in Marathwada, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

5655. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRI SATCHIDA NANDA: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that around 5000 villages and 1,000 wadis in Marathwada region and vast tracts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have lately been suffering from acute water scarcity and drought situation;

(b) if so, the details of the areas so affected; and

(c) the Central aid if any sought and given for drought relief measures State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Government of Maharashtra 4,499 Villages and 1,155 wadis in the State are facing shortage of water. The State Government has declared drought in 2,596 Kharif villages and 1,001 rabi villages in the Marathwada region during the current year. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported acute drought conditions in 12 tchsils of 6 districts and drinking water problem in 7,832 villages and 291 towns. The Government of Gujarat have not declared drought conditions in any part of the State.

(c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought additional financial assistance of Rs. 65.00 crores for drought relief measures. The Government of India have released the first quarterly instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 9.04 crores and Rs. 12.07 crores to Madhya Pradesh